

Evening Telegraph

A DAILY AFTERNOON NEWSPAPER.

OFFICE No. 108 S. THIRD STREET.

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ADVERTISEMENTS inserted at the usual rates. A liberal allowance made for extended insertions.

To Advertisers.

Owing to the great increase in the Circulation of this Paper, we respectfully request that all advertisements be forwarded in as soon as 10 o'clock, if possible, to secure them an insertion in all our editions.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1864.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

We are informed by the report of the Postmaster-General that the financial condition of the Post Office Department is more prosperous than it was previous to the war. The average annual receipts from 1850 to 1861, inclusive, were \$8,745,282.62, and the average annual expenditures for the same period, \$14,482,085.44. This shows an average annual excess of expenditures over receipts of \$5,737,756.82. Now the average annual receipts from 1862 to 1864, inclusive, were \$10,871,530.67, and the expenditures \$11,804,759.72. This shows an excess of expenditures over receipts of \$829,254.75.

The estimates for 1865 fix the expenditures of all kinds for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1865, at \$14,097,500.00, and the gross revenue, including foreign postage and miscellaneous receipts, at \$13,184,547.70. The estimated deficiency of revenue, therefore, as compared with estimated expenditures, will be \$913,952.21. By deducting from this sum \$700,000 (the amount of the permanent appropriations to compensate the Department for carrying free mail matter), this estimated deficiency is reduced to \$213,952.21. Now, the grants for the transportation of free mail matter for the last two fiscal years have not been expended, and if we assume that this \$700,000 for the last year is still available, no appropriation for any deficiency in the revenues will be required.

During the elapsed fiscal year \$31,054,610 postage stamps (of the value of \$10,177,227), 20,642,300 stamped envelopes (amounting to \$766,512.50), and 1,574,500 newspaper wrappers (amounting to \$31,480) were issued. The total value of these issues compared with the issue of the previous year, shows an increase of \$63,569.39. The value of the stamps and stamped envelopes sold was \$10,776,839.58, and the amount used in the preparation of postage was \$6,878,155.61. The losses of stamps in the mails amounted to only \$123, and of envelopes to \$31.80. During the last six months of the year 1859 the losses in transmission were \$4573.

Under the act for the relief of postmasters who have been robbed by Confederate forces, or Rebel guerrillas, one hundred and thirty-nine claims have been made, representing losses of postage stamps and money amounting in the aggregate to \$5358.97. Sixty-two of these claims have been examined and reported on favorably, the aggregate of the credits allowed being \$2130.50.

With respect to army mails it is highly gratifying to learn that their forwarding and reception are conducted with so much celerity and certainty. The policy originally adopted, of excluding civilians from the mail service within the lines of the army, and detailing for that duty enlisted men of intelligence and reliability, has been found to be advantageous, and will be continued.

Attention is due to the remarks in this report as to mail distribution. It is thought that the mailing of all letters direct from one office to another, however situated, in so vast a territory as that embraced within the United States, is objectionable. Experiments have therefore been made with railway or traveling post offices. By the employment of these between Washington and New York, for instance, the transmission of letters is expedited from twelve to twenty-four hours. The universal application of this scheme will of course be a work of time, but whatever the cost, will be attended with more than recompensing advantages.

The statistics of the foreign mail service show that the aggregate postage (sea, inland, and foreign) upon the correspondence exchanged with Great Britain, Russia, France, Hamburg, Bremen, and Belgium, amounted, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1861, to \$1,399,005.69, or more than \$21,000 in excess of the largest amount realized in any previous fiscal year. The collections in this country, compared with those in Europe, give a result which proves a largely increased correspondence with Europe, notwithstanding our civil trouble, and the interruption of postal communications with the South.

In the course of the report the statement occurs that an arrangement with Canada adopts the principle of optional prepayment in both countries of the combined rate of international postage, each country retaining all the postage which it collects. This form, it will be seen, completely dispenses with accounts between the respective post departments, and has been adopted with all the other provinces except Newfoundland.

The free delivery of mail matter by carriers has been introduced at sixty-five offices, employing six hundred and eighty-five carriers, at an aggregate annual compensation of \$317,661.22.

The number of dead letters, we are told, of every description, received and examined during the year, was 3,508,825. This is an increase of 958,409 over the preceding year, and is mainly due to the return of a large number of army and navy letters which it was found impracticable to deliver. The number of letters which it was found imposs-

ible to forward from the offices where deposited, or to deliver to the parties addressed, because of the postage being unpaid, or on account of being illegibly directed, and which were, in consequence, sent to the dead letter office, was 115,812. Of letters addressed to Rebel localities returned from various sources to the dead letter office, there were 31,423. Of these, over 28,000 were domestic. Of ordinary dead letters, or those not evidently worthless, 1,088,469 were returned to the writers.

A noticeable fact is that, during the first year of the rebellion, the number of letters which passed between the United States and European countries decreased, while at the same time the ratio of letters returned increased. The correspondence each subsequent year has been increasing, while the ratio of dead letters returned to Europe has decreased.

On the 1st of November, a very important improvement, that of the postal money order system, was begun. A superintendent and assistant have been appointed, and one hundred and forty-one post offices have been designated as money order offices.

THE TOBACCO TAX CONVENTION.

Yesterday morning a Convention of tobacco manufacturers began its sessions at the Cooper Institute, New York. A report which was read stated that 429,390,771 pounds of tobacco had been raised in this country during the past year. Of the five grades of cigars contained in the schedule, the four of any great importance ranged under the \$8, \$15, \$20, and \$40 tax. Twenty-five cents per pound, it was stated, on all leaf tobacco, seemed to be a fair rate of assessment, and thirty cents would not be objected to by cigar manufacturers if they were protected in other respects.

At the rate of twenty-five cents a pound over \$107,000,000 would be raised on the 429,390,771 pounds mentioned as being the product of a year.

The growth of tobacco having been hindered in several of the tobacco-growing States, included in the above estimate, that amount was merely given as an indication of what might be expected in time of peace.

The report closed by asking Congress to fix the tax directly upon leaf tobacco;

and it was proposed to print the report in pamphlet form and transmit it to Congress by a committee, whose duty it would be to endeavor to secure the passage of a law fixing the tax on the leaf.

DEGENERACY OF JOURNALISM.

We consider it about time that the *Age* should discontinue its virulent attacks and infamous imaudiences leveled at the Administration of the people's choice. While an exciting political contest was in existence, such actions might be palliated by the anger consequent upon a struggle for power, but when the issue has been forever decided by the vox populi, to continue personal abuse against a successful opponent savors of a smallness of mind and an absence of honor which we did not expect that even the *Age* would exhibit.

This morning we find the following editorial remark.

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"They have struck oil at the Pollock Well. It is on Ten Mile creek, one and a half miles below our village. They made the strike on Saturday, the 4th inst.; they are 250 feet deep, and made the strike just after boring through the first stratum of sandstone. This I have no doubt, will knock the leasing business all in the head, and will run land up to a most fabulous price."

This slur upon the character of the President, whom even foes have acknowledged to be honest, is beneath the candid refutation of any respectable journal; and the paper which would be guilty of publishing such a falsehood is too low in morals and honor to receive the patronage of any intelligent citizen.

THE RETURNED PRISONERS AT ANNAPOLES.

The accounts which have reached us of the returned prisoners at Annapolis present the most sickening picture of suffering and distress. Insanity, imbecility, idiocy, starvation, vermin and disease have prostrated or infected both mind and body, and reduced the sufferers to the most lamentable and disastrous state.

In all the horrors which are caused by war, probably none are so pre-eminently fearful to face as these. The blood, and the strife, and the agony of the battle-field one may encounter with hearts that do not falter, with courage that cannot fail; but no eye can read the record of such afflictions as those of the Savannah prisoners without becoming stunned, and no reflection can revert to them without the sick feeling of horror being revived. Glory, and gratitude, and kind care and tender nourishment should be the rewards of devotion on the field. Such a record as this, whilst it breathes miserable truths in regard to the condition of affairs at the South, gives fresh cause for the exercise of conscience and faithfulness not only in regard to our own men, but even with respect to the wounded Rebels in our hospitals. Our first, but holiest duty is to the Union soldiers; but our supplies are equal to our charity, and that is heaping coals of fire upon the head of Rebellion.

Special Mail for Sherman's Army.

The steamship *Fulton*, specially detailed, will leave this port-to-morrow with a heavy mail for General Sherman's army. She goes under sealed orders, as the exact point of Sherman's arrival in the Army of the Potomac at City Point propose gratifying the invalids there with a Christmas dinner.

Persons addressed to the *Fulton* will be advised upon the subject, and the latter, as will be seen, commands the proposed act with characteristic boldness.

Subscriptions for this object will be received by Messrs. Thomas S. Ellis, No. 130 S. Fourth street, and John M. Riley, No. 427 Chestnut street, and stores can be forwarded to either of the ladies whose names are appended. We are sure that the mere announcement of this timely and praiseworthy movement will be quite sufficient to elicit the requisite liberality on the part of our citizens to carry it out.

PHILADELPHIA, December 3, 1864.—To his Excellency, Andrew G. Curtin, Governor of the State of Pennsylvania and Commander-in-Chief of the Armies of the Union, we wish to present, through the medium of your Excellency, our hearty thanks for the invitation to grant the invalids there with a Christmas dinner. We have been gratified with many instances of the beginning or continuance of the movement, and the efforts of the Eastern army, which has given us a more marked knowledge of all the necessities of the sick and wounded. We are sure that the mere announcement of this timely and praiseworthy movement will be quite sufficient to elicit the requisite liberality on the part of our citizens to carry it out.

Yours truly, A. G. CURTIN.

Mrs. ANNIE E. WATKINSON,
Mrs. LIZZIE BROWER.

PHILADELPHIA EXECUTIVE BOARDROOM, Pa., December 6, 1864.—Ladies—I cannot too strongly commend the patriotic and benevolent purposes manifested by the letter of the 3d December, now before me.

With the hope that you may be compensated for the extra expense in the work you propose to undertake, I remain,

Yours truly, A. G. CURTIN.

Mrs. ANNIE E. WATKINSON,
Mrs. LIZZIE BROWER.

PHILADELPHIA, December 6, 1864.—On the 3d instant, we were informed that the ladies who had written to you, in response to your letter of the 3d December, now before me, had sent their names to the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Executive Boardroom, No. 427 Chestnut street, Philadelphia, Pa.

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